



East County Citizens Advisory Board Annual Report



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September 2008 - August 2009

Montgomery County Executive

Isiah Leggett

Montgomery County Council

Phil Andrews, President

Mike Knapp

Roger Berliner

Marc Elrich

Valerie Ervin

Nancy Floreen

George Leventhal

Don Praisner

Duchy Trachtenberg

In Memory of Councilmember Donald Praisner

We are especially grateful for the service of Councilmember Don Praisner, who passed away this year.

The East County Citizens Advisory Board would like to pay a very special tribute to Councilmember Don Praisner, who was elected to the Council seat vacated by his late wife Marilyn. In his one year tenure, Don was instrumental in carrying out many of the programs and fulfilling Marilyn's legacy, while at the same time advocating for East County residents' current needs.

We will miss them both dearly and continue to remember the significant achievements they accomplished for the benefit of their friends and neighbors here in the Eastern Region of the County.

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Introduction

The East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) is pleased to present this Annual Report which details its accomplishments for 2008-2009. This report outlines how the ECCAB focused on the priorities of the community and its efforts to improve the quality of life in Montgomery County as the board tackled issues and concerns related to the material and social needs of the residents of East County.

Board Priorities

In September 2007, ECCAB members participated in a board retreat. Based on their personal knowledge and experiences, the board members generated a list of areas to be addressed and these priorities, which aligned with the County Executive's Eight Priorities, carried into 2008-2009 year. (See the table below)

ECCAB Priority Alignment with the County Executive's Priorities

<i>County Executive's Eight Priorities</i>	<i>ECCAB Priorities</i>
<i>Affordable Housing in an Inclusive Community</i>	
<i>Children Prepared to Live and Learn</i>	<i>Education – advocate for the renovation of Paint Branch High School, Cresthaven Elementary School and White Oak Middle School Programs for children after school</i>
<i>An Effective and Efficient Transportation Network</i>	<i>Completion of the Fairland Road and Greencastle Road improvement projects Intercounty Connector – Serving as a communication conduit for neighborhoods to the State Highway Administration (SHA)</i>
<i>Healthy and Sustainable Neighborhoods</i>	<i>Expanding Senior Citizens Activities – support and promote the County Executive's Senior Initiative developed during a Countywide summit</i>
<i>Responsive, Accountable County Government</i>	<i>Establish Resident Forum at monthly Board meetings: (1) Set time to speak; (2) get detailed and specific information; (3) Refer to staff or ECCAB committee for action; (4) provide feedback to the resident in a timely manner</i>
<i>Safe Streets and Secure Neighborhoods</i>	<i>Traffic Safety, focusing on pedestrian safety Fire Station Support new third District Police precinct facility in East County</i>
<i>Strong and Vibrant Economy</i>	<i>Revitalize the Burtonsville Shopping Center Development of Burtonsville Business District, including road improvements Federal Research Center – Relocation of the FDA Recreation Center – advocating for the New White Oak Recreation Center East County Technology Center Percontee Village Science Proposal</i>
<i>Vital Living for All Our Residents</i>	<i>Focus on relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital Green spaces, parks/Improvement on environment issues</i>

About the East County Citizens Advisory Board

In March 1993, the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council, established the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB).

ECCAB has 18 members representing the residential and business communities covered by the Master Plan areas of Cloverly, Fairland, and White Oak. These areas are roughly bound on the west by the Northwest Branch, on the north by the Howard County line, on the east by the Prince George's County line, and on the south by the Capital Beltway, I-495.

Mission

The mission of ECCAB is to advise the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council on concerns and issues facing our region and advocate for regional priorities.

Monthly Board Meetings

ECCAB holds its meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, from September through July. Committee meetings are held the following Wednesday.

The Board receives presentations on matters of public interest, many of which relate to budget, transportation, and land use issues. Community residents can express concerns to the Board during its monthly meetings. Issues raised by community members are sent to either to a committee to be vetted or to the appropriate County departments for action and tracked by the Regional Service Center staff. Discussions during the Board's meetings provide a balanced assessment of problems faced by residents and businesses in the regional service area and help to identify potential solutions.

Acknowledgements

We wish to express our thanks to all board members who gave generously of their time in advancing the work of the East County Citizens Advisory Board. These volunteer Board members give of their time and energy to help improve the quality of life for all East County residents.

We are grateful for the committee leadership. We especially thank *Tom Aylward*, chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee; *Anthony Ramirez*, chair of the Services Committee; and *Marva Deskins, Esq.*, chair of the Outreach Committee. The board was successful in carrying out many activities in this past year because of their hard work.

The board wants to convey special thanks to *Anise Key Brown*, former Director of the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center; *Chuck Crisostomo*, Assistant Director; *Gwen Haney*, Program Specialist II; *Anjoo Chohda*, Senior Executive Administrative Aide and *Chris Briggs*, Principal Administrative Aide. Their support is invaluable to the work of the East County Citizens Advisory Board.

Board Members Serving in 2008-2009

Officers	Title
Kim Bobola, PhD	Chair
Colleen Ionata	Vice Chair
Bill Strassberger	Parliamentarian
Sheala Durant	Secretary

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee handles issues related to transportation, economic development, housing, environment, taxation, capital improvements, budget, property and zoning and monitors the implementation of Master Plans in eastern Montgomery County.

Committee members included: *Tom Aylward (Chair), G. Stanley Doore, Eric Luedtke, David Kochanski, Esq., John Fausti, John Thomas, Bill Strassberger, and Peter Myo Khin.*

SERVICES

The Services Committee handles issues related to education, aging, health, human services, public safety, and recreation.

Committee members included: *Anthony Ramirez (Chair), Colleen C. Ionata, Sheala Durant, Dwayne Parris and Kim Bobola.*

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee handles publicity, lobbying, and special events. The committee plans special events, forums, and other outreach efforts to the larger community.

Committee members included: *Marva R. Deskins, Esq. (Chair), Amjad Chaudhry, Vanessa Ali, Allan Mulligan, Alfreda Payne and Benoy Thomas.*

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD 2008-2009



Standing L-R: Alan Mulligan, Dwayne Parris, Amjad Chaudhry, Eric Luedtke, Tom Aylward III, Anthony Ramirez, Bill Strassberger, Peter Myo Khin, Benoy Thomas and G. Stanley Doore

Seated L-R: Marva Deskins, Esq., Odessa Shannon, Vanessa Ali, Alfreda H. Payne and Kim Bobola

Board Activities

During 2008-2009, ECCAB was immersed in activities that focused on the material and social needs of the residents of East County. These activities served as a bridge between the community and county government.

Presentations to the Board

Burtonsville Legacy Plan (September 3, 2009)

Roylene Roberts, from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, provided an overview and background of Burtonsville's designation as a "Legacy Community" and the process for the Community Legacy Plan's development, which was in the review stage.

Burtonsville Legacy Plan (October 1, 2008)

Burtonsville Legacy Plan consultant, Kate Shiflet, gave an overview of the plan, which she called a blueprint for future action in Burtonsville, including both short- and long-term goals.

Consultant Kevin Fisher listed the short-term (five years) elements:

- Road widening and streetscape improvements along Route 198, including the creation of gateways at the Route 29 bridge and at the Burtonsville access road;
- Driveway and parking reconfiguration to accommodate new sidewalks, street trees, and signage;
- Parking reconfigured to go behind commercial areas;
- Pedestrian and bicycle paths to connect the village center to the community green space; and
- Community green space and gathering area next to the school.

Ms Shiflet presented the plan's long-term objectives (6-10 years):

- Relocation of Route 29 signage;
- Streetscape enhancements along Route 29 in the Burtonsville commercial area;
- Encouraging a variety of housing options in the Community Legacy area;
- A parallel road south of Route 198;
- A possible parking structure;
- Green and low-impact design of buildings and public spaces; and
- An expanded Burtonsville employment center with new buildings, businesses, and jobs.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System (November 5, 2008)

Councilmember Marc Elrich gave a presentation on his proposal for a Countywide Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. His proposal is an outgrowth of work completed last year when the Council updated the Growth Policy. Councilmember Elrich stated that people are concerned about traffic congestion on county roads, and that conditions could worsen and overwhelm the infrastructure over time. The aim of his BRT proposal is to provide more capacity by adding transit options. This proposal has the potential to ease traffic, reduce pollution, and alleviate related budget demands in the short- and long-term. A map that detailed the possible BRT routes was presented. The map included a route along Route 29 that could loop into the Food and Drug Administration's White Oak complex. The advantages of BRT are in providing: (1) exclusive or shared transit ways; (2) bus priority/HOV lanes; (3) dedicated transit lines; and (4) faster fare collection.

Washington Adventist Hospital (December 3, 2008)

Robert Jepson provided an overview of Adventist Health Care's plans for a new hospital in the East County region. The hospital is relocating because of its current inaccessibility and insufficient size. The new site encompasses 40 acres on Plum Orchard Drive. Washington Adventist Hospital will remain in its current location in Takoma Park and become a center for healthcare and community service. Jeff Morgan, who is in charge of the relocation project, explained that the Hospital obtained a special exception for the right to build a hospital on the new site. The next step is to obtain State approval, which is estimated to happen in April 2009. The site plan encompasses 300 private-bed rooms, a full service emergency department, two medical/physician buildings, two parking structures, an outpatient center, a possible future wellness and fitness center and a parcel for a possible future fire station. Groundbreaking is intended to start in 2010 with construction completion in 2013.

Code Enforcement Workgroup Report (February 4, 2009)

Tom Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, gave a presentation on the workgroup's report, which includes recommendations for regulations and legislation on overcrowding, parking in residential neighborhoods, home construction, and increasing fines for code violations. Mr. Street explained that the workgroup contained input from various community associations and cultural groups around the county.

InterCounty Connector (March 4, 2009)

Ray Feldmann, the State Highway Administration's (SHA's) Community Outreach Liaison for the Intercounty Connector (ICC), provided a description of the ICC as an 18 mile, \$2.5 billion road that had been planned for the last 50 years. Its purpose is to improve the

flow of traffic from Routes 270/370 to Rt. 1 by taking traffic off of local roads. The ICC will be a toll road with “congestion pricing,” meaning it will be regulated by traffic flow – when the flow is light, pricing will drop and when the flow is heavy, pricing will rise. By controlling congestion and keeping traffic moving it will also minimize air pollution. Tolls will be under the administration of the MD Transportation Authority, which will operate and maintain the ICC. Tolls will be paid via an EZ Pass or a photo of the license plate followed by a mailed notice of amount due.

The construction will be completed in five sections (A - E). Section A, from Shady Grove to Georgia Ave., is about 35% complete and is expected to open before the end of 2010. Section B is about to start, and sections D & E are not yet contracted. Section C, which started last April and affects the East County region, is approximately 25% complete. It starts west of Old Columbia Pike, goes over Rt. 29, across Briggs Chaney Road, and under Old Gun Powder Road. Old Columbia Pike will include a bridge extending over the ICC, rather than visa-versa, to accommodate residents’ requests. Mr. Feldman noted various locations where there would be sound walls. Among those along Briggs Chaney Road were the residential areas on Gateshead Manor, Aston Manor, Dogwood Drive, and Tanglewood.

County Executive’s Pedestrian Safety Initiative (April 1, 2009)

Jeff Dunckel, from the County’s Department of Transportation, explained that County Executive Isiah Leggett’s overall vision is to increase the safety and security of pedestrians and reduce pedestrian fatalities and collisions throughout the County. By making pedestrian travel safer, easier and more convenient, other important objectives may also be achieved, such as improved health and fitness, a reduction in local vehicular congestion and pollution, and improving the community’s appeal to businesses, residents and tourists. Several of County Executive Leggett’s key priorities are to:

1. Improve pedestrian safety and mobility by transforming the County into a truly walkable community;
2. Ensure that every Montgomery County resident has a safe and viable alternative to using cars for local trips; and ensure that children living within walking distance of their neighborhood school have a safe walking route to school;
3. Significantly increase the proportion of residents and visitors who are aware of the behaviors most often involved in pedestrian collisions, and take recommended actions to reduce these risks;
4. Ensure that pedestrian safety and accessibility are integrated in all public projects implemented by County and State agencies and in all future growth and private

development in Montgomery County;

5. Effective traffic safety programs involve a combination of approaches to change behavior, including the Three E's of traffic safety - *engineering, enforcement and education*.

Burtonsville Legacy Plan "Streetscape Design" features (May 6, 2009)

Cathy Mahmud and Cynthia Butler, Department of Housing and Community Affairs, provided a description of Streetscape Standards for Burtonsville and asked for the Board's recommendations on various sidewalk scoring patterns, bench types, lamp posts, and bike racks as well as their colors. Streetscape features will be placed along the Burtonsville Access Road.

Legislative Briefing (June 3, 2009)

Representatives from District 14 and 20 provided a briefing on their accomplishments and future priorities. They gave an overview of the bills being introduced in the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis and those approved in the most recent legislative session. Topics included education, healthcare, transportation, and safety, followed by ten-minute question and answer session.

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Update (July 1, 2009)

Nesreen Khashan, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, emphasized the importance of counting every person living in the area because \$10,000 in federal funding is lost over the 10-year life of a census for every individual not counted. She said it is important to assure that that Montgomery County receives its fair share of federal funding. In 2000, which was the highest participation rate on record, participation was just 67%. The census questionnaire takes only ten minutes to complete. Ms. Khashan noted that the Census Bureau will be setting up offices in Rockville and in the District of Columbia and will be hiring 300-400 people to collect data. In March 2010, census forms will be mailed to residences.

The US Census Bureau is forming partnerships with individuals and community groups to assist with reaching as many people as possible. These partners can help recruit Census workers, publicize the census on websites and through contact lists.

Notable Community Involvement

Community Events

Members of the East County Citizens Advisory Board participated in a number of community activities, including several community festivals. All members of the board participated in at least one community festival. At these celebrations, board members disseminated information about the services of the East County Regional Services Center; discussed concerns identified by East County citizens; and shared ways that ECCAB acts on these concerns. These community events included hosting a Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service and Celebration held at EMRSC on January 19, 2009 and the Youth Forum held on May 6, 2009. The Youth Forum focused on five main topics: Out of School Activities, Quality of Education, Safety, Gangs and Cultural Awareness.

Festivals

The Burtonsville Day celebration was held on Saturday, September 27. Board members took part in the Burtonsville Day parade, and staffed an information booth at the day long festival. Members of ECCAB also participated in the Colesville Strawberry Festival on May 30, 2009.

Community Surveys

A total of 110 individuals completed a survey designed by the Outreach Committee to solicit community comments. An analysis of the survey results revealed a referendum on transportation. Other top priorities include crime and economic development. With regard to economic development, survey participants are interested in finding out what can be done to revitalize the Burtonsville business district and how the scale of proposed development in White Oak would bring jobs closer to the residents of the region.

ECCAB Issues/Updates

White Oak Recreation Center

Plans for construction of the White Oak Recreation Center are moving forward. Designs have been drawn up and the location has been finalized. ECCAB members have heard community concerns regarding increased crime and pedestrian safety associated with the new White Oak Recreation Center and that these issues are still being looked into. Some “environmental security” measures being considered in the construction of the White Oak Recreation Center.

Paint Branch High School Modernization

The Board, concerned about the many delays that have occurred with the Paint Branch High School Modernization, continued to advocate for the school’s construction. The Council approved funds for the modernization in May and no further delays are expected. The groundbreaking is scheduled for Spring 2010.

Northeast Consortium

ECCAB members attended the Northeast Consortium (NEC) meetings and heard about the many wonderful opportunities these high schools offer students. They include magnet programs offered to students in grades four through high school. However, School Board members expressed some concern about continuing to fund the Northeast Consortium. The Northeast Consortium has been funded for the upcoming year only (2009-2010). ECCAB will continue to monitor the program’s status.

Fire and Rescue Station

A new fire station is planned to be built in the Eastern portion of the county. The site for this new Fire Station is in the general vicinity of Tech Road and route 29. ECCAB has a liaison on the Fire Station Site Evaluation Committee and will continue to monitor the location of a new fire station.

InterCounty Connector

Construction of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) has begun. The Board will continue to monitor resident’s concerns as construction progresses.

Burtonsville Legacy Plan

The Board continues to closely follow plans to revitalize the Burtonsville business district. Tom Aylward attended a presentation by the State Highway Administration

(SHA) regarding Routes 198 and 28 through Burtonsville. He stated that the main focus is on creating traffic patterns to create a better corridor for businesses and not an alternative route to the ICC. One option of the SHA's plans would remove traffic lights and he suggests the Board should continue to monitor SHA's plans.

Traffic concerns

Tom Aylward reported that the County's Department of Transportation and SHA are at an impasse concerning the Burtonsville Shopping Center Development site and its ingress and egress onto route 198. The Board wrote a letter supporting a traffic signal along MD 198 at the future Burtonsville access road.

March 6, 2009

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Burtonsville Shopping Center/ RT 198 access and traffic signal.

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The East County Citizens Advisory Board and its sub-committee "Economic Development & Infrastructure" recently held discussions concerning the lack of progress/ failure to start the planned replacement of the Burtonsville Shopping Center. We have learned that a primary block to the issuance of permits is that SHA will not approve a full function signalized intersection at the future Burtonsville Access Road (BAR).

We understand that you are already deeply involved in this discussion and are championing the cause for the full function intersection. We support you in this effort with SHA.

The recently developed Burtonsville Legacy Plan provides a very reasonable framework for the redevelopment of the Burtonsville "main street", which happens to be a section of Route 198. Completion of the BAR and full function signalized intersection at each end of the BAR is critical to creating the traffic control and resulting ambiance that will give the plan a chance of working. The Legacy Plan enjoys the input and support of a broad spectrum of the community.

Several years ago the Route 29 'by-pass' took significant traffic, and revenue, out of the Burtonsville commercial district. This has allowed east –west traffic on Route 198 to move through at a quicker pace and greater volume – which doesn't help the

commercial enterprises. Small businesses, and the planned shopping center, require safe and convenient access to survive and thrive.

Route 198 will not be the major east – west path once the ICC opens. When the ICC became a forgone conclusion we all looked for the benefits from a road many didn't want. Clearly a completed ICC makes it possible and reasonable for SHA to allow greater traffic control, but still allow full movement, in our little commercial corridor. Full function intersections are user-friendly which will encourage shopping and commerce in Burtonsville.

Please let us know how we can bring the voice of the community to your side in support of this signalized access to the Burtonsville Access Road.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim M. Bobola, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim M. Bobola, PhD
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

The County Executive responded to ECCAB's letter of March 6, 2009, indicating that the letter was forwarded to Mr. Neil Pedersen, Administrator of the Maryland State Highway Administration, to ensure that the community's position on this matter would be considered.

Burtonsville Post Office

ECAAB sent a letter to the Director of the Department of Transportation regarding the safety concerns at the new location of the Burtonsville Post Office.

November 12, 2008

Mr. Arthur Holmes, Director
Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Holmes:

On behalf of the East County Citizen's Advisory Board, I am are writing to express several traffic concerns related to the Burtonsville Postal Office located at 15210 Dino Drive. The Burtonsville Postal Office was recently relocated to Dino Drive from the Burtonsville Shopping Center. Since the relocation, members of the Burtonsville community have raised traffic safety concerns to Advisory Board

members.

These traffic safety issues include:

1. A lack of signage that makes it difficult to find the Post Office. It is difficult for vehicles traveling either westbound or eastbound on Route 198 to easily identify where the post office is located on Dino Drive.
2. Vehicles traveling westbound on Route 198 must make a left hand turn to enter Dino Drive. Traffic coming eastbound on Route 198 is coming at high speeds, making this left turn on to Dino Drive a bit precarious.
3. Difficulty for vehicles on Dino Drive to turn either right or left on to Route 198 to see eastbound traffic on Route 198 because trees and other shrubbery are partially blocking the view of oncoming vehicles (which are coming around a small bend at high speeds). The left hand turn on to Route 198 is especially dangerous.

We understand that Route 198 is managed by the State Highway Administration (SHA) and Dino Drive is a County road. We urge DOT to help facilitate:

1. The removal of the shrubbery on Route 198 (in conjunction with SHA).
2. The addition of a traffic light at the intersection of Dino Drive and Route 198 (in conjunction with SHA).
3. The addition of signs that identify the post office's location (in conjunction with the United States Postal Service).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with you to resolve these traffic safety concerns.

Sincerely,



Kim M. Bobola, PhD
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

Art Holmes, Director of the County Department of Transportation, received the letter and forwarded it to the State Highway Administration (SHA). The State Highway Administration (SHA) replied, noting that there is not enough traffic to warrant a traffic light and said that signage is not needed because the community knows where the post office is.

Pedestrian Safety

The County's Pedestrian Safety Initiative sets out goals, timeframes and budgets starting with fiscal year 2009 for new and enhanced efforts to achieve several strategies.

The strategies are as follows:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Strategy 1 | Target pedestrian safety improvements in High Incidence Areas. |
| Strategy 2 | Assess and improve pedestrian network and connectivity needs. |
| Strategy 3 | Increase the emphasis put on pedestrians and bicyclists in the planning process. |
| Strategy 4 | Identify and implement corridor and intersection modifications and traffic calming treatments. |
| Strategy 5 | Upgrade pedestrian signals. |
| Strategy 6 | Assess and enhance street lighting. |
| Strategy 7 | Modify pedestrian and driver behavior through enhanced enforcement and educational efforts. |

Bill Strassberger attended the Paint Branch PTA meeting where school traffic safety was a major topic. He reported that a traffic light, improved signage, and uniform speed limits, as well as a crosswalk at Old Columbia Pike, are planned for the new school.

The Board's longtime interest in pedestrian safety also led it to advocate for safety improvements on Fairland Road to the County's director of the Department of Transportation:

October 8, 2008

Mr. Arthur Holmes, Director
Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Holmes:

The East County Citizens Advisory Board would like to express its appreciation for the rapidity with which the county's Department of Transportation and the Traffic Division of the Montgomery County Police Department have responded to the recent pedestrian accidents along Fairland Road. We would like to emphasize, however, that efforts to improve pedestrian safety along Fairland Road should continue to be urgently pursued.

We would ask that the traffic and safety study promised in a recent Gazette article include investigation of all possible options, including the installation of pedestrian islands or roundabouts that would simultaneously slow traffic to the speed limit and give pedestrians, new options when crossing Fairland Road. Similar re-engineering of Arcola Avenue in Silver Spring has resulted in a streetscape that is significantly safer for both pedestrians and drivers. Clear marking of the shoulders of Fairland Road as a bikeway, as suggested in the Fairland Master Plan, would provide protection for cyclists as well.

We encourage you to continue your outreach to the community on this issue. Given the recent pedestrian fatality and injury, the community is justifiably upset, and any results of the traffic and safety study should be presented at meetings where members of the community have an opportunity to provide further feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim M. Bobola, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Bobola
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

Eric Luedtke attended a meeting of the Fairland Estates Community, also attended by County Executive Leggett and Transportation Dept. Director Art Holmes, regarding the traffic fatality at Fairland Road and related safety concerns. He reported that, by the end of next year, two traffic lights and pedestrian islands will be added in this area.

The improvements promised to the community following the tragic pedestrian fatality were completed in June 2009, with traffic signals installed at Serpentine road and Tamarack lane. Bus stops have relocated to better align pedestrian traffic with the newly installed signals.

The Food and Drug Administration

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will house approximately 9,000 employees by 2013. Transportation is an issue. FDA currently has three metro bus routes that pass the campus and also have a continual shuttle route from the Silver Spring metro station. The FDA supported the construction of the additional sidewalks at the Four Corners area on Route 29. The FDA continues to engage in discussion and plan collaborative projects with the Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH). ECCAB will take another tour of the FDA campus during the next year.

Immigration Status Issues

Bill Strassberger made the following motion:

“That the East County Citizens Advisory Board express its support for a change to the current policy regarding the ability of county law enforcement officials to check the immigration status of persons arrested for dangerous crimes. We support Montgomery County Police, in collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in enforcing federal immigration laws by ICE. We note that Montgomery County police will not be enforcing immigration laws unless appropriate agreements are made and training takes place. We welcome a change that would allow Montgomery County police to query the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center and allow ICE to determine a person’s immigration status. We understand that any action regarding the person’s status or violation of immigration law will be handled by ICE and not the Montgomery County police. We also highly recommend that a broad and multi-language education campaign be conducted to announce this policy change to County residents”

“The Board recognizes Montgomery County’s long standing tradition that values the contributions of our diverse, productive and hardworking legal immigrant communities and supports policies that strengthen the public’s trust and protects individual civil liberties.”

Hollywood Ballroom

A request for the Board’s support to obtain a zoning waiver was made by Bobby Fries, owner of the Hollywood Ballroom on Industrial Drive in Silver Spring. Ms. Fries provided the following information:

She has been operating her dance business with the zoning designation of “Health Club” since opening approximately 17 years ago. Recently, she was told that this is an inappropriate designation and that she is out of compliance with zoning. She has also been denied an enterprise license, which would allow her to rent out her facility for receptions, cultural events, because of the zoning issue. Ms. Fries attributes this conflict to her support of youth “go-go” dances at her facility which began in November of 2008. She believes the police are inaccurately connecting area crimes by youth to attendees at these dances. The Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee met with police officers to get their viewpoint regarding the Hollywood Ballroom matter.

Recreation

The Board sent a letter of support for the purchase of approx. 52 acres of unimproved land from Fairland Development, LLC for an addition to the Fairland Recreational Park.

July 1, 2009

The Hon. Phil Andrews
President
Montgomery County Council
Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Andrews:

On behalf of the East County Citizen's Advisory Board, I am writing to express support for the purchase of approximately 52 acres of unimproved land from Fairland Development, LLC for an addition to Fairland Recreational Park. This is a rare opportunity to acquire a parcel with significant environmental features just 1 ½ miles from where the Intercounty Connector (ICC) is being built.

The County has received a total of \$27 million from the State for parkland transferred for the ICC right-of-way. We strongly believe that these funds should be used to acquire "replacement" parkland in the areas directly impacted by the ICC. To date, the Parks Department has used \$7.2 million to buy conservation parkland within the Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area (SPA) and another \$4 million for property north of the ICC in Derwood. Adding the 52 acres from Fairland Development, LLC would bring the total expended on ICC mitigation to \$20 million (about 73% of the total) in the areas where the road impacts are greatest. Please consider the following:

The 52 acres contains high-priority upland forests, forested wetlands and bogs, steep slopes and environmental buffer areas, and habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species;

The large forest is the best example of a coastal plain forest remaining in Montgomery County, and it contains old growth estimated to be more than 100 years old;

There is a rare Swamp Bay Magnolia Bog, which is a unique wetland first documented in the early 1900s;

The area recommended for acquisition is in close proximity to the Burton Log House, a historical feature whose setting would be enhanced by the acquisition;

The area is adjacent to McKnew Local Park, which has already been designated as a biodiversity area; and,

Acquisition would help to protect the excellent water quality of the McKnew Tributary of Little Paint Branch, and high quality upstream helps offset the deleterious effects of high-density development in the lower reaches of Little Paint Branch.

Please share our views with all Council members. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Strassberger', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

William Strassberger
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

The Council approved the purchase of the park in July, 2009.

Zoning Text Amendment

The Board reviewed and considered taking a position regarding a zoning text amendment, ZTA 09-05, which was introduced on June 19th in the County Council. This relates in part to the EZ storage, a proposed self-storage facility in the Burtonsville Industrial Park. A motion was made to send a letter of support regarding the issue on Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 09-05 Burtonsville Overlay Zone – Allowed Uses. It was referred to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee. The motion was seconded and passed. The Executive Committee was tasked with developing the letter.

US Census Bureau

Bill Strassberger stated the US Census Bureau needs ECCAB's support and asked the Board to sign a partnership agreement. A Board member will serve as a liaison to the US Census Bureau.

Committee Issues and Accomplishments

The standing committees include: Outreach, Services, and Economic Development and Infrastructure committees.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee handles issues relating to networking, lobbying, communications, and publicity. The committee also plans for special events, forums, and other outreach efforts to the larger community.

The Outreach Committee had an active and successful year this term. In addition to organizing both a summit and a forum, committee members attended PTA and HOA meetings, and met with the owners and managers of various East County businesses. The Committee's community outreach activities have enhanced the ECCAB's reputation in the community, and garnered more interest in the Board's meetings and activities.

Organized Events

East County Leadership Summit (10/18/08)

To review the Report, please go to

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/rsc/eastco/2008summitreportonline.pdf>

Youth Forum (05/06/09)

The Outreach Committee conducted a Youth Forum to gain insight into the issues which are important to the youth in East County. Student leaders from Paint Branch, Blake and Springbrook High Schools were invited to attend. The students spoke about the quality of the education they are receiving and the value of the diverse student populations in their respective schools.

The students also gave the ECCAB members their insight into the very low level of gang activity in this area and other problems such as dating violence and cyber bullying.

Community Outreach Activities

Peach Orchard Heights Citizen's Association (11/19/08)

Benoy Thomas attended the Peach Orchard Heights Citizen's Association's fall 2008 meeting. Their 30 members raised issues pertaining to: 1) Overabundance of deer; 2) Vandalism — street signs and posts were removed and had to be replaced; 3) Pets without leashes.

Burtonsville ES PTA Meeting (12/02/08)

Alan Mulligan attended the December meeting of the Burtonsville Elementary School PTA. Alan explained ECCAB's mission and encouraged members to share information about school events. He also informed members that ECCAB could serve as a conduit for advice and information that the local community might want to offer the County Executive and County Council. As a result of his visit, the Vice President of the Burtonsville Elementary PTA attended the next ECCAB meeting.

Potomac Adventist Book & Health Food Store (01/07/09)

Fredda Payne spoke with Carolyn Evans of the Potomac Adventist Book & Health Food Store to discern what issues were of importance to her as a business owner. Ms. Evans stated that more police presence was needed to address the following issues: 1) Employees' cars being broken into while in the parking lot; 2) Trucks and trailers constantly parked on the road behind the store where "no parking" signs are posted; 3) Panhandlers in front of the store.

Staples (01/09/09)

Fredda Payne spoke with Gilana Chindi, manager of Staples, to identify any particular concerns she had. Ms. Chindi expressed concerns about a theft that had occurred at her store.

Greencastle Towns Home Owners Association (01/14/09)

Marva Deskins attended the Greencastle Towns Home Owners Association. Attendees raised concerns of vehicle theft where one homeowner's car was broken into while in his driveway. Additional lighting for that particular subdivision was proposed.

Other

Allan Mulligan advised that business owners in the Burtonsville Crossing shopping center continue to complain about loss of business due to the Route 29 ramp. Two businesses have since closed, which brings the total of empty storefronts to eight (8).

Services Committee

The Services Committee handles issues related to education, aging, health, human services, public safety, and recreation. The following section describes the accomplishments of the Services Committee in the areas of education, public safety, and recreation.

Education

Northeast Consortium (NEC)

Committee members attended the Northeast Consortium meeting in February 2009. The Northeast Consortium had been funded for fiscal 2010 but several Board of Education members have indicated the need to reevaluate the program's progress. Currently, the Consortium receives \$3 million annually. The committee will continue to monitor the program's status and bring appropriate issues to Advisory Board when necessary.

Paint Branch High School

The Services Committee continued to track the progress of Paint Branch High School's remodeling and building. The project had been delayed several times due to a shortfall in revenue. However, in May 2009, the Council approved construction funding for the school.

Public Safety

The Services Committee drafted a letter to address traffic safety concerns regarding the new location of the Burtonsville Post Office to the Department of Transportation which, in turn, notified the State Highway Administration (SHA) of Board concerns. SHA replied, indicating that there was not enough traffic to warrant a traffic light and that signage was Board not needed because the community knows where the post office is located. However, traffic concerns in this area continue to be an issue and the Committee will continue to monitor this.

The Services Committee invited the State Department of Transportation's Community Outreach representative to the Advisory Board meeting to provide a status update on the Inter-County Connector (ICC).

Recreation

The development of the White Oak Recreation Center continues to be a high priority for the Services Committee and for East County Residents. The design has been chosen and the County is moving forward on building the Center. Service Committee members reported that concerns remain for increased crime and pedestrian safety associated with the new White Oak Recreation Center. The Committee will continue to monitor these concerns with police as the construction nears completion.

Parks

Services Committee members noted a need for additional trash cans at Columbia Local Park. The Committee brought this to the Board's attention and Committee members called the Parks Department and asked them to install more trash cans there. Park officials responded and placed additional trash cans at that park.

March 30, 2009

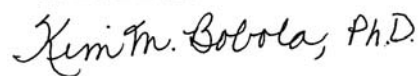
To Whom It May Concern

The East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) provides assistance to the citizens of Eastern Montgomery County with issues or matters affecting them within their community. To this end, the Board was contacted concerning Columbia Park which is maintained and cared for by the *Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission* (MNCPPC).

Columbia Park is a much loved and used area within the community and is treasured by parents and children alike. To help maintain its cleanliness, it was suggested that additional trash receptacles be placed next to the far ball fields #3 & #4. Although there is a receptacle near a pavilion, there are none near the fields which tend to collect trash during games. The Board requests that these additional receptacles be placed within the park to help citizens keep their park clean.

The ECCAB thanks you for your consideration of this matter and looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kim Bobola, Ph D.
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee

The Development and Infrastructure Committee handles issues related to transportation, economic development, housing, environment, taxation, capital improvements, budget, property and zoning, and monitors implementation of Master Plans in eastern Montgomery County.

Burtonsville Legacy Plan

The Committee tracked the status of the Burtonsville Legacy Plan issues, giving special attention to infrastructure needs & coordination with State and County departments and agencies.

Affordable Housing

The Committee expressed concern about the affordability of housing in the County and will be reexamining options related to zoning changes. The Committee continues to track the status of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expansion. Currently 5,000 FDA staff members are employed there with 9,000 projected by 2013.

Burtonsville Traffic Patterns

Tom Aylward attended a State Highway Department meeting regarding Routes 198 and 28 in Burtonsville. The main focus is how to create traffic patterns that make these routes a better corridor for businesses and not an alternative to the ICC.

3rd District Police Station

The County purchased more land than needed for the new police precinct in White Oak. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs is considering building affordable housing on the remainder of this property. The Committee continues to monitor the status of this property.

Traffic Study

The Committee is following up with the State Highway Administration regarding the traffic study along Route 29, and continues to explore the possibility of signage for the Post Office now located on Dino Drive in Burtonsville.

Board Testimony

February 27, 2008

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I want to thank you for providing us with an opportunity to convey to you the top priorities we identified for our region. We believe that these priorities, which I will refer to as the 2008 ECCAB Priorities, are consistent with the *Eight Priority Results of the County Executive*.

2008 ECCAB Priorities

The 2008 ECCAB Priorities are: (1) schools and recreation; (2) a vision for transportation; (3) public safety, with a sharper focus on gangs and crime prevention; (4) Burtonsville revitalization; and (5) affordable housing. Finally, we have identified a cross-cutting priority that addresses the master plans covering the East County services region. Specifically, this priority is a request to fund studies of small areas within the master plans to address issues involving development, infrastructure, and transportation.

Process for Identifying the Priorities

To identify the 2008 ECCAB Priorities, the East County Citizens Advisory board used a number of methods to gather input from our community. We held community forums,¹ administered surveys of people attending community festivals,² conducted a board retreat, and gathered comments and suggestions from individuals who attended monthly ECCAB meetings. From these combined sources, ECCAB compiled, categorized, and established the priorities described below.

Schools and Recreation (*Children prepared to live and learn*). Our top priority is the public schools and provisions for recreation. We believe that both are essential in preparing children to live and learn. We wish to highlight Montgomery County Public School System's (MCPS) Capital Improvement Program, the FY 2009 Operating Budget, and the Department of Recreation's Facilities and Services Development Plan.

¹ In partnership with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center (EMRSC), ECCAB held a Crime Forum on February 13, 2007 and a Transportation Forum on June 2, 2007.

² At the Burtonsville Days festival on September 30, 2006, a total of 69 individuals completed a survey designed by the Outreach Committee to solicit comments. An analysis of the survey results revealed a referendum on transportation. Other priorities included crime and economic development. Regarding economic development, survey participants were interested in finding out whether or not an anchor store will be coming to the Burtonsville Shopping Center or vicinity.

February 27, 2008

- MCPS Capital Improvements Program (CIP). We appreciate the efforts that were put forth by county officials in pursuing school construction funds for FY 09. The state dollars that should be forthcoming, combined with local funding, will go a long way toward ensuring that the county is able to make good on its promises to carry out the projects in the CIP schedule.
 - Residents of East County would be pleased if **Paint Branch High School** is built on time.
 - ECCAB continues to monitor the position that **Farquhar Middle School** holds in the modernization schedule and wants to ensure that the school does not slip from its current position.
- A. FY2009 Operating Budget. ECCAB supports the priorities that the school system identified in the \$2.1 billion Fiscal Year **2009 Operating Budget** and that the School Board adopted on February 5.
- ECCAB is concerned about meeting the student-teacher ratios set in school policy, and wants to ensure that the school system is able to deploy staff – in accordance with these ratios – at the beginning of the school year. We were disappointed that Burtonsville Elementary School was not entirely staffed until November 2007. To address this concern, ECCAB recommends:
 - ✓ **Full funding of the school board’s request for teacher positions**, as detailed in the FY2009 Operating Budget
 - ✓ Holding the school system accountable for accuracy of enrollment projections and efficiency in staffing each school in a timely manner.
 - ECCAB strongly supports the school system’s budget requests that would shore up middle school programs and improve special education programs and services. We are pleased that:
 - ✓ Programs to help **ESOL high school students** with interrupted education will be expanded; and
 - ✓ **Continuing education opportunities** will be provided to energize teaching and professional staff and help them stay current in their profession.

We also endorse the 5.6 percent increase (\$110 million) over the FY 2008 budget that will help fund a **5 percent negotiated salary increase** for nearly 22,000 employees. We believe this is essential in terms of staying competitive in our region.

- B. Recreation Facilities and Services Development Plan. We enthusiastically support the construction of the **White Oak Recreation Center**, and are pleased that the project is moving forward on schedule. What's important to us is that the **site selection does not change**. Progress has been made regarding the site analysis and evaluation, and this progress should not be impeded. ECCAB looks forward to the detailed planning that will follow, and hopes to be involved with the Department of Recreation in seeking community input for the facility plans.
- C. Good Hope Community Center. We worry that the planned renovations of the **Good Hope Community Center** may be negatively impacted by budget cuts. We believe that the renovations (e.g., weight and exercise room, an additional classroom, locker rooms and an expanded lobby and gym) are necessary facility enhancements. This community center, which is in close proximity to the Briggs Chaney area, has the potential to engage youth that congregate at the Briggs Chaney Shopping Center in wholesome alternatives to gang or other destructive activity.
1. **A Vision for Transportation** (*Effective and Efficient Transportation Network*). In January of 2007, ECCAB members attended a Joint Meeting of Citizens Advisory Boards, and learned about the Region's Transportation Plan. We also learned that a policy framework has been adopted. The vision of this policy framework is to promote *activity centers; increase transit opportunities/use; and reduce road traffic*.
- Several key issues for the region were identified: (a) Job growth is outpacing housing; (b) Workers are living farther from their jobs; (c) An East-West Divide is occurring: that is, west-bound traffic clogs the roads during the morning rush hour; and (d) Most growth is located outside of transit station areas.
- At the Transportation Forum that ECCAB held in June of 2007, we learned more information about the Region's Transportation Plan. Unfortunately, we heard that the plan has limited funding associated with it. ECCAB is very concerned that limited funding will constrain the long-range plan. We believe that a dedicated funding stream is needed to implement the plans associated with this regional framework.
- A. East County Vision for Transportation. We also believe that a single **Long-Term Vision**³ for Transportation in East County is needed, and that this vision should be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan and Policy Framework. The East County Vision for Transportation should address growth and development in East County and the impact they will have on traffic congestion,⁴ which is the major

³ We need to coordinate the Transportation component of the master plans with regional planners, (Maryland Park and Planning for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties), State Highway Administration officials, as well as developers and others who have an interest in the future of East County. The developers that we talk with are interested in helping to address this problem.

⁴ This could occur as employment swells at the Federal Research Center, as the Percontee Life Science Village and the East County Science and Tech Center are developed, and as the Washington Adventist Hospital relocates in East County. Since no *one* developer we talk with can shoulder the burden of road infrastructure costs, a coordinated effort is needed.

concern of the residents of East County. As part of the East County Vision for Transportation, the county should:

- Examine **rush-hour congestion** to identify the nature of the problem. For example: What percentage of cars in rush-hour traffic on Route 29 and New Hampshire Avenue are Howard County residents? Where does the traffic funnel down and bottleneck? This exercise would reveal the through-pipes and help in resolving some of the cross-pipes (e.g., the work that needs to be done on Randolph Road).
 - Establish some measure of **road capacity**. Plans should include within-county targets, such as 20% of residents will utilize mass transit; 20% of residents will car pool, etc. Plans should also identify incentives to encourage the residents to meet the targets.
 - **Align the Transportation Vision for East County with the Regional Plan.** This would involve a deeper study of transit options and incentives for citizens to use them, and an expansion of transportation issues to include road engineering, buses, bikes, fixed rail, and safety issues.
 - Explore new technology such as hybrid buses, small hybrid cars, plug-in electric cars and driverless moonbeam-monorail for the Purple Line and out US 29 instead of low-capacity surface consuming light rail transit.
- B. Intercounty Connector (ICC). ECCAB is concerned that the residents of East County are largely uninformed about the Intercounty Connector and how it will affect them. Consequently, we want to see a **public information campaign** that would:
- Inform the residents what the Intercounty Connector is; where it is going to go; and when it is coming
 - Identify how the ICC will create benefits for residents of East County such as: quick and easy access to Interstate 95, access to the interchanges that will get them to other parts of Montgomery County along the ICC, and the reduction in community traffic through neighborhoods.

We also believe that **Spot Planning at ICC nodes** is necessary to consider revisions to master plans that may not take advantage of the new road.

- C. Bus Lines. East County has a significant issue with bus lines. **We need to learn from the users how to improve this.**

- For example, Senior citizens who utilize bus services from Burtonsville to the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center may not have bus service available for a return trip to Burtonsville.
- Because the ICC is expecting to spur “4,400 new Express Bus trips,” an investigation is needed as to whether there are **adequate commuter parking lots** for these dedicated busses and how this will help our residents.

2. Public Safety (*Safe streets and secure neighborhoods*). We are proud that Montgomery County is one of the safest communities in the country, and want to ensure that the county maintains this distinction. Montgomery County needs to stay at the forefront in terms of gangs and crime prevention. In East County, we also need to upgrade the fire and police facilities.

A. Gangs and Crime Prevention. ECCAB believes that the most important role of government is the safety and protection of the community. We are concerned about the threat posed by gangs and individuals involved in gang-like activities. For this reason, we believe the county should sharpen its focus on gang prevention through activities such as:

- Working with the State legislature in **reforming the juvenile justice system** so that individuals involved in gang crimes and gang-like activities are dealt with in different ways than turning them back to the streets without proper interventions.
- Re-doubling prevention efforts through the Joint County Gang **Prevention Task Force**
- Stepping up **outreach programs** to youth through recreation and education
- Initiating an **information campaign** that would involve parents, family members, and entire communities as a first line of defense in guarding against children becoming a part of a gang or choosing to participate in gang-like activities

B. Fire Station. We support the proposed Fire-Rescue Station for the first-due response areas of Hillandale Station 12; Burtonsville Station 15; and Hillandale Station 24.

- The new Fire-Rescue Station is needed in the vicinity of U.S. Route 29 and Tech Road. This station project should be included in the FY 09-15 CIP, with the site evaluation process for the new East County Station to be led by the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center director. Additionally, we support the Burtonsville Station 15 expansion, presently in the design phase, with construction to be completed by fall 2008.

- C. Police Station. We support the CIP that replaces the current Silver Spring District Station. The rationale is that business, residential, and transportation patterns have changed in East County – leaving the current facility at the far south end of the 3rd Police District. The New Hampshire Avenue/Route 29 location will be much more centrally located.
3. **Burtonsville Revitalization** (*Strong and vibrant economy*). ECCAB is interested in implementing the recommendations of the Burtonsville “Resident Shopping Survey and Market Study,” commissioned by the Department of Housing and Community Development which was completed the summer of 2007. ECCAB suggests that the recommendations included in the report be acted on. One example is:
- Discontinuing plans to build the Burtonsville Access Road in 2009. This road was designed to alleviate traffic on Route 198 and serve businesses in the Burtonsville Center. We believe that this road is now ill-conceived, as it was designed prior to the road upgrades which have occurred. We believe that building this road would be a poor use of the taxpayers’ dollar, and that the county should stop it.
 - Spot Planning. This is another area requiring that a small section of the master plan be revisited to deal with Route 198 from Santini Road to Dino Road and about a ¼ mile north and south of 198.
4. **Affordable Housing** (*Affordable housing in an inclusive community*). ECCAB is concerned about basic zoning enforcement and availability of affordable housing stock.
- A. Basic Zoning Enforcement. We are specifically concerned about the far reach that *mansionization* has in Montgomery County. While challenges related to mansionization are often noted for other parts of Montgomery County, the same challenges are present in East County, especially in Hillandale and White Oak. To deal with related concerns about mansionization, ECCAB supports the regulation of densities through the enforcement of existing laws and the proffering of additional zoning controls. Specifically, single family homes should not be used for multifamily. The county needs to be vigilant regarding:
- Enforcement of existing codes (regarding smoke detectors, wiring for additional kitchens, and electrical or mechanical devices) for in-law suites, basement apartments, etc.
 - Ensuring that consequences are applied to owners and occupants for violations.

- B. Affordable Housing Stock.** ECCAB believes the current system of subsidizing moderately priced dweller units (MPDUs)⁵ for workforce housing is inadequate and that there is a “profoundly troubled relationship” between incomes and housing prices in East County, since “the median home price in Metropolitan Washington is about eight times the median household income.”⁶

Montgomery County has tried to increase the supply of affordable housing by requiring developers of multi-unit residential projects to set aside a specified percentage of units as moderately priced dwellings, to be sold or rented at below-market prices. As compensation for these MPDUs, developers are granted density increases.

We believe this policy has a flaw. Since developers have the option of buying out of the MPDU-housing fund, intended to finance housing to be developed in the future at other sites, the fund has grown. But, the number of MPDUs NOT produced by developers has far outnumbered the MPDUs produced by the fund. We believe that the county must move toward direct subsidy and county-sponsored housing production such as:

- **Public Private Partnerships.** For example, in San Francisco, affordable housing is developed by private developers, mostly non-profits, many of which are local community or faith-based organizations, using a combination of rental income, private funding and government subsidies. Over the past decade, many communities in the San Francisco Bay Area have shown that partnerships can create attractive, successful affordable housing developments that not only serve residents, but are an asset to the broader community.
- **Housing Cooperatives.** In these co-ops, which are owned by a corporation that owns real estate, residents occupy one housing unit, subject to an occupancy agreement that is similar to a lease.

Additionally, we believe that **master plans must be revised** to allow higher density, smaller units in areas for transitional or entry level housing.

5. **Cross-Cutting Goal** (Strong, vibrant economy; Affordable housing; and Transportation)
While the master plans covering our region’s service area have been reasonably intact for ten years, the East County Citizens Advisory Board is asking that small parts of these master plans (i.e., Fairland, White Oak, and Cloverly) be opened for the purpose of conducting *Spot Studies* of targeted locations to address issues involving development, infrastructure, and transportation. Examples are:

⁵ Townhouses near Lockwood: Eight individuals acquired Moderately Priced Dweller Units, while another 150 persons are on the waiting list.

⁶ Lewis, R. K. (February 16, 2008). Beyond the Mortgage Crisis, a Persistent Problem of Cost,” Washington Post.

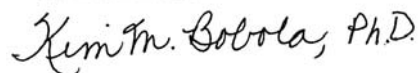
February 27, 2008

- Montgomery Auto Park and the West Side of Route 29 at the ICC Interchange. A *Spot Study* would hone in on the quadrant NE of Route 29 (the area behind the Auto Park; the field and wooded area for boy scouts activities; and the wooded area north of Fairland Road) and spotlight the current zoning for housing development. This area, at the ICC, may be better suited as a business park, while the Percontee property, which is zoned for business only, could be *re-zoned* so Percontee would have the residential product that they want. Additionally, the 182-acre Percontee Gravel Mining Site (designated into mixed-use) and the redevelopment of East County Science Center and Tech Center, the 115-acre property owned by WSSC, could work together as one entity.
- Route 198 through Burtonsville. A *Spot Study* could be used for gridding the Burtonsville shopping area along Route 198. The purpose would be to identify efficient ways to move people east and west through the shopping area. Solutions could include: adding a median strip, building an additional lane, and creating a turn-lanes for driver-access to the businesses located along Route 198 and a path for pedestrians to encourage foot traffic within the shopping district.

This approach has the potential to efficiently address specific problem areas in East County at a lower cost and in a timelier manner than was seen in previous decades when the entire master plan was opened up.

We thank you for your attention to the 2008 ECCAB Priorities.

Sincerely,



Kim M. Bobola, PhD

Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

c. Anise Key Brown, Director